

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 109619

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AID-05 /058 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO PRIORITY

PANCANAL PRIORITY

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FOR AMBASSADORS BUNKER AND JORDEN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT:SENATOR GOLDWATER CRITICIZES REAGAN POSITION ON
NEGOTIATIONS

1. THE WASHINGTON POST REPORTED ON 5/4 THAT IN A PRESS
STATEMENT HERE YESTERDAY SENATOR GOLDWATER CALLED GOVERNOR
REAGAN'S CANAL STATEMENTS "IRRESPONSIBLE". HE ALSO
COMMENTED THAT THEY REFLECT "EITHER A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING
OF THE FACTS" OR "A SURPRISINGLY DANGEROUS STATE OF MIND,
WHICH IS THAT HE, REAGAN, WILL NOT SEEK ALTERNATIVES TO A
MILITARY SOLUTION WHEN DEALING WITH COMPLEX FOREIGN POLICY
ISSUES".

2. ACCORDING TO THE POST, GOLDWATER ALSO SAID THAT THE
U.S. SHOULD UTILIZE DIPLOMATIC MEANS IN ORDER TO AVOID
HAVING TO CHOOSE BETWEEN ACCESS TO THE CANAL AND USE OF
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PAGE 02 STATE 109619

TROOPS TO DEFEND IT. HE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE PROCESS

OF NEGOTIATION WITH PANAMA OFFERS THE BEST MEANS OF PRE-SERVING U.S. INTERESTS IN THE AREA, ADDING THAT REAGAN'S STATEMENTS "COULD NEEDLESSLY LEAD THIS COUNTRY INTO OPEN MILITARY CONFLICT". GOLDWATER DIRECTED SEVERAL SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO REAGAN, INCLUDING, "HOW WOULD HE DEFEND THE CANAL MILITARILY IF HE REJECTS MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS?" AND CHARACTERIZED REAGAN'S STATEMENTS AS ADDING UP TO A THREAT OF WAR. SISCO

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